

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00542 111118Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 CU-02 USIA-06 /044 W
-----111121Z 006567 /21

P 111008Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6703

C O N F I E N T I A L COLOMBO 0542

FOR NEA/RA HOLLY

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS:ELAB, CE, PINT
SUBJECT: AAFLI ACTIVITIES DURING UPCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) COLOMBO 0387, (B) STATE 28705, (C) STATE 30827,
(D) COLOMBO 0315

1. WE STILL BELIEVE THAT AAFLI PROGRAM SHOULD BE
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED (REALISTICALLY, AFTER GARZA'S
UPCOMING VISIT) AND RESUMED ONLY AFTER ELECTIONS,
RATHER THAN AS AAFLI PROPOSES IN REFS B AND C. CARZA COULD
EXPLAIN DISCREETLY TO HIS UNION CONTACTS DURING THIS VISIT THAT
AAFLI WOULD NOT BE PLANNING IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT
FEW MONTHS.

2. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS ACTUALLY WELL UNDERWAY IN ALL
BUT NAME. WITH THE PROROGATION OF THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY
(NSA) FEBRUARY 10 (SEPTEL), EVEN MORE TIME IS
LIKELY TO BE DEVOTED TO PARTISAN POLITICS, WHATEVER
THE DATES OF THE FORMAL DISSOLUTION OF THE NSA AND GENERAL
ELECTIONS. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT
LEFTIST ELEMENTS WILL BE PLAYING A PROMINENT ROLE
IN THE CAMPAIGN. THE TROTSKYITE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY,
WHOSE STRENGTH DERIVES MAINLY FROM ITS URBAN TRADE
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UNION BASE, WILL BE ATTEMPTING A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN
IN OPPOSITION TO BOTH MAJOR PARTIES. THE COMMUNIST
PARTY/MOSCOW WING, EVEN IF IT DOES STAY IN THE PRIME
MINISTER'S UNITED FRONT COALITION. IS STAKING OUT AN
INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT LINE AND WILL TAKE AN AGGRESSIVE ROLE
IN THE CAMPAIGN. EVEN THE GOVERNING
SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY IS NOT ABOVE RAISING THE CRY OF

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (REF D) WHEN PRESSED TO THE WALL,
AS INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT WILL BE DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

3. AAFLI REP GARZA IS DUE IN COLOMBO THIS WEEKEND;
LABOR ATTACHE WILL MEET WITH HIM EARLY NEXT WEEK
TO ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS UPON HIM THESE POINTS. WE WILL
REPORT BACK ON HIS ATTITUDES AFTER THAT MEETING.
REED

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Message Attributes

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